

deal with it. She went to the WIC program, and got nutrition counseling. She got a diet. I saw those two kids yesterday. They are beautiful kids. They are thriving now through the WIC program.

They talk a lot about fraud and abuse. There are no allegations of fraud and abuse in the WIC program. People get vouchers for a healthy diet.

You know, there are allegations, substantial allegations, in the food stamp program. What is very interesting is the Republicans originally proposed to block grant the food stamp program. But you know what, they backed off, not because they did not want to get at the \$3 billion of fraud and abuse. I believe they want to get at that as much as I do and the organized crime. But because Safeway and A&P and Stop and Shop and all the farm lobby came in and said, "You can't do that to us."

Now, WIC unfortunately, the Women, Infants, and Children's Program, low-birthweight babies, the nursing moms, they do not have those kinds of lobbyists, the same kind of lobbyists Safeway has or the agriculture groups have.

So food stamps is back on with ineffective measures to deal with the \$3 billion of fraud and abuse, but WIC is on the chopping block. It is going into a block grant program about 80 percent of the funding it gets now, and 20 percent of that money can be diverted by the Governor of any State to any other purpose they want. And they tell me, "Don't worry, the WIC program won't be hurt." Well, there is an unmet need in my hometown of Springfield, OR, and I know there are unmet needs in many other towns across America, and the WIC program is one of the most cost-effective ways of meeting that need.

I met another gentleman, a man, who was there with his baby. He and his wife, both college graduates, both employed, but in the current job market they are not making a lot of money; they are having a little trouble making ends meet. They are new parents. They qualified for the WIC program. They are getting nutritional supplements for their baby, and they have learned a lot about parenting through this program.

I met another woman there whose child had had a routine pinprick blood test. They do that to the kids who come into the program to see if they have any deficiencies. They discovered that that child had childhood leukemia, and the child is now in treatment.

But this program in their world will not be required to exist anymore because of all of the Federal bureaucrats mandating so many things. I was there yesterday. I did not see any Federal bureaucrats. I saw a bunch of healthy, happy kids. I saw a bunch of parents who were doing better and getting just a little bit of help, and most everybody there was working. Funny thing, given the current minimum wage; and how well do you think you can provide for

a family of four? That is why we have the Women, Infants, Children Program.

What does one low-birthweight baby cost, both in terms of trauma to the parents, both in terms of developmental disabilities for that child, both in terms of cost to the Medicaid program? Is it too much to ask that we continue the Women, Infants, Children's feeding program and prevent those low-birthweight babies? I do not think so. And I think America can afford that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LINDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, once again, I think we have to make the facts known, especially in light of the last speaker. We are not cutting this program. We are increasing this program.

Here are the charts. Now, that chart is a hypothetical, what if, and I guess I could say that in an expenditure where we would hypothetically have \$20 billion or \$30 billion to care for some type of children's program, I could say we should have \$60 billion to care for it, so we have really shortened and short-changed that program. That is what this chart is. That is exactly what this chart is.

The fact remains we are increasing it. Something I am going to agree about with the last speaker about a successful program. yesterday I was in Zanesville, OH, Muskingum County, Mr. Speaker, and the people that run the WIC program were in, and it is a successful program, and it is a good program, and I believe that we have recognized that time and time again. We are recognizing it again and again and again by saying we believe in it and we are going to increase it, and here is the chart that tells we are going to do it.

So we have not said it is a bad program. We have no question of the effectiveness of the program. We have no question how it has helped people.

But I have got to tell you, they call this the well. They ought to rename it the swamp, because I think we get to a low point when we come in and bring a picture in and try to say that by increasing this we are going to do harm to children. I think that is absolutely ridiculous.

Let us state the facts as they are, and the fact is that it has been a good program. The fact is that the new way to do the WIC program does not take away counseling, as the last speaker told you, Mr. Speaker. It does not, because nothing changes in this program.

The question of where are we going to live up to the food standards, we do, Mr. Speaker, live up to the food standards, because that is also taken care of through this program.

But it is a bigger picture, and the bottom line in this country, Mr. Speaker, is that tomorrow morning everyone in this country looks into the mirror and sees the face of the human being that is morally responsible as to whether our children live in a country that is safe, prosperous, and secure.

So we all have to ask ourselves, Mr. Speaker, as we look into our faces in the mirror, Members of Congress and people throughout this country, are we doing the best job to make sure that this country is safe, prosperous, and secure for our children? And I answer we are. But not just in how we revise this program to take the Federal bureaucratic end of it out, but in the overall picture of what we are also doing is stepping up to the plate and balancing this Nation's budget, of trying to reempower families to help them by reempowering them to make decisions, and this is what it is all about. It is a bigger picture.

Because what we have done in this country by letting Washington remain the same old, same old, time after time, is we have let a bureaucracy build up, and as I told people from the WIC organization yesterday, we have let it build up to the point if we do not take control now of this deficit, if we do not take back control and reempower families out in the heartland, Mr. Speaker, in this country, we are not going to have to worry about charts on either side of this aisle, because there is not going to be anything left. We will have nothing to leave our children. When we look in the mirror, we are going to know we did not leave our children with a safe country. We did not leave our children in prosperity. And we did not leave, Mr. Speaker, our children with peace.

So not only are we doing the right thing, not only are we increasing this, we are also looking at a bigger overall picture to restabilize this government, to reempower where it counts, in the hands of the citizenry, Mr. Speaker.

And with that, I think we have just got to stay to the facts and quit using scare tactics from this side of the swamp, not the well, to use this type of scare tactic. We should speak to the reality of what we are trying to do, to make a better America, and that is what we are. We are sending our message, Mr. Speaker, to you tonight and to our colleagues, and we know that if we work together in the bigger picture, we are going to give back to families their dignity and give back to families their ability to help empower themselves for a better future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mrs. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SMITH of Washington addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF AMERICA?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. WAMP] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to ask a series of questions and to make some statements, and the first question is: Can the Federal Government solve the problems of America? You know, I asked that question as I campaigned for the last 4 years.

I really believe the average person out there in this country does not think for a minute that the Federal Government is going to solve the problems that we have in this country, and there is a tremendous amount of misinformation and disinformation.

I returned to Washington today from Chattanooga, TN, my home, and I can tell you from being there this weekend that this issue has outraged so many people who know better and know that there is some untruth being told. The words "cutting" and "eliminating" are being used over and over again on editorial pages all across this country. It has gotten so out of hand that small children are writing letters to Members of Congress. I am sure at the instruction of their teachers or maybe even their parents, saying, "Mr. Congressman, please, don't cut my lunches. Please, don't eliminate the food from my table."

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And another question I have tonight is, who is actually taking advantage of children here? When you ask small children who don't know any better to write a letter to their Congressman with the threat that you are going to take food off of their plate in front of them and they are not explaining to these children what the truth is.

You know block grants is what we are talking about. Decentralization is what we are talking about. It is a recognition that things are not working, things have not been working. Federal Government got too big, too powerful, out of control. It is outrageous, and we are trying to block grant these dollars back to the State and the local governments.

You know, Al Harris runs the Chattanooga housing authority in my home city, and does an outstanding job there. They are concerned. Let me tell you what he says about block grants. He says block grants work. He says, "Send the money down, unleash the shackles. We got too many rules, too many regulations, too much bureaucracy. Send us the money. We can produce." He looks at this as a good thing, as decentralizing the Federal

Government and sending the money on down.

I heard in church Sunday morning a teacher in Hamilton County, Tennessee, said, We have got problems with school lunch programs. Those people who are in need are not getting the services because people who do not qualify are abusing the system. People are applying for and receiving free lunches in our schools and they drive up in about BMW's to let their kids off in the morning. You know why that happens? Because this is a big Federal bureaucracy micromanaged out of Washington, DC, and every time we have turned these programs over to the Federal Government they have got out of hand. Fraud sets in and money is wasted and people do without.

In about 2 weeks, this House, I believe this majority, will vote to put \$500 in the pocket of every child in this country whose parents are working and paying taxes. That is the kind of child relief—that is the kind of child support that we need to be engaged in, and there is more help on the way. We are sending this money back to the States. We are not cutting or eliminating anything, and my colleagues have said that over and over again.

What I think this really boils down to is whether or not we trust our State and our local governments, because I do not believe the liberals in this country will acknowledge that our States and our local governments have done a better job than we have done up here in Congress for the last 30 years.

You know, they are balancing their budgets at home. They are responsible. They have got their priorities in order. They are not about to go out and borrow money with a credit card like these voting cards here. The worst and most expensive credit card in the history of the world here is the credit card that Members of Congress use to vote in this Chamber, moneys that they do not have, and it is out of hand. We have got to do something about it.

So let us send the money back to the responsible governments, the State and the local governments. I know in my home State that our governor and our State legislature is going to do the right thing with these moneys when we block grant them back there, and if your program is good, you will get more money, not less money, through block grants and then you won't have the Federal Government breathing down your throat on everything.

I want to close with a statement I know you have heard before but we need to remember it right now, 1995, while this country is at risk. A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.

Patriotic, freedom-loving Americans need to recognize that our Federal Government is out of control. We have got more government than our Founding Fathers ever wanted. We have got more government on a Federal level,

more micromanagement, more bureaucrats, more waste, fraud and abuse than I ever wanted to deal with, and we are up here trying to do something about it and they are not telling the truth.

Now, if we are going to have a legitimate dialog in this country about what is best for our children and our future, let us at least be honest. We are not running campaigns anymore. That comes up next year. You know, we knew when we got into it you would not tell the truth about us in our campaigns. That is part of campaigning. This is lawmaking. This is serious business.

Let us at least tell the country the truth on this issue of block grants because this is the beginning of downsizing the Federal Government, returning the power and the money to the States that have acted responsibly.

THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. WHITFIELD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, when the school lunch program was started back in 1946, the research that I have done indicates that the program cost about \$70 million that year, and the projections indicate that by the year 2000 the food programs in the United States will be approaching \$7 billion.

Now, when you talk about hunger in America, I want to emphasize this evening that those of us on this side of the aisle are just as concerned about the welfare of children throughout America as those people on the other side of the aisle. They certainly do not have any sole discretion about and concern for the needs of children around this country.

But when you have a program, and I might also add that in addition to this school lunch program, there are thousands of programs out there to provide help to American citizens, and that is part of the problem, because you cannot solve a \$4.7 trillion deficit problem in America without coming up with new approaches and new solutions to very difficult problems.

Now, all of us would like to do everything that we can do to eliminate hunger in this country. We would like to eliminate disease in this country. We would like to eliminate child abuse completely in this country. All of us agree to that. But we have a significant problem. How do we continue to provide the money for all of the thousands of programs out there, whether they are child care programs, breakfast programs, lunch programs, after school programs, child abuse programs, or whatever they may be?

So the challenge that we have is to come up with innovative solutions to provide the maximum benefit for children throughout America at the lowest